



LEIGHTON-LINSLADE CROQUET CLUB

Founded 2000

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GENERAL COMMITTEE MEETING Wednesday 18th June 2014

At 1.00 pm - Page's Park pavilion

Committee Members present: -David Ball (chairman), Roger Stroud (secretary), Len Buckingham (treasurer), Eve Buckingham, John Cundell, John Thorp, Tony Stammers, Peter Cole, Sheila Guest

Minutes

1. Welcome

David opened the meeting at 1pm and welcomed everyone present.

2. Apologies for absence

Malcolm had given an apology as he could not attend the meeting.

3. Minutes of meeting held on 19th March 2014

David asked if the minutes circulated of the March meeting were an accurate record of the meeting. The committee agreed that they were so David signed a copy of the minutes.

4. Matters arising & review of Actions (if not included below)

There were no matters arising.

5. Reports: -

5.1 Secretary's report including correspondence to Club

Nothing to report

5.2 Treasurer's report

Len circulated a statement showing our recent financial position to which there were no queries. There was then a discussion about lawn mowers and/or a small tractor as Len pointed out that we have sufficient funds to purchase same if we need to. JC said that the type of mower we required was like that used by Letchworth. He had not made any price enquiries as at present we have an on-going problem with storage of such large items. This prompted a discussion related to our storage requirements which is complicated by the unknown future Council requirements for various parts of the pavilion.

Len also spoke about us insuring our club assets and has agreed to get a quotation from the insurance company that the CA use. The committee unanimously agreed that we should insure our club assets.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

John C reported that we have 45 members with the possibility of one more joining shortly.

Peter Cole commented about possibility of encouraging youngsters to join; a view that was not shared generally by the rest of the committee.

6. B Level Tournament

This is taking place on our lawns on Friday 20th June, having been organised by John Cundell. John said that we are all ready for it – there are 12 players organised into 2 blocks of six spreading handicaps across the two blocks. There are six players from our club and the rest from other clubs. Scorers have been organised and the timing is:

8.00am we will arrive to set up gazebos and complete final preparations

9.15am practice for all players

9.30am play to start

John has organised the prize for the winner.

7. Fixtures

7.1 EACF Leagues

John T said that all league matches are booked and that our handicap league team are currently top - winning two out of three matches.

7.2 Friendlies

John also said that the Northampton Home friendly has been organised and the entry form is on our notice board. John again said the he is still trying to organise a Friendly against High Wycombe.

8. Lawn Maintenance & Mowing

Both John T & John C have spent time recently on the lawns with the aerator (which is owned by the Council). John T pointed out that we have mushrooms growing on our lawns which are being dealt with. John T said that we have a weed on our lawns shown by little flowers that again needs to be dealt with by weed killer.

9. Garden Party / Fun Day (September 6th 10am to 4pm)

JC said that whilst there are several weeks before this event we do need a working group to plan it or it will not get off the ground. JT suggested that we have organised 'fun' on one lawn and the usual croquet on the remaining lawns.

Peter Cole offered to lend his big marquee for this event – David agreed it would be fantastic.

David said that he has some games such as shove ha'penny to add interest to the day. Sheila asked about the specific Garden Party arrangements and David said that Eve & Jean are organising a salad meal for this event.

There was a discussion on charging for tickets and an amount of £5 was agreed upon and that members can invite guests.

David agreed to organise the games and he also suggested that we have a raffle with only three good prizes.

10. Referees Room

John C said that we should start making approaches to the Council about our permanent use of this room as the end of the season draws near. In forthcoming discussions with the Council including re-negotiation of our lease agreement, we should include the possible added responsibility of mowing the lawns and our storage requirements generally. We should put a financial & responsibility package together for discussion with the Council in due course.

John added that our current financial agreement with the Council increases 5% each year whilst inflation in our economy has been significantly less than that, causing us to lose out financially.

Peter Cole added that the 'Green Gym' project has been cancelled by Council due to Sport England rejecting the grant application.

11. Fencing Repair

John C said that many of the fence post uprights are loose as well as rotting at the base.

12. Community Garden safety fencing

John Connew had informed us that for Health & Safety reasons the Council would be fitting a 'ball stop board' at that end of Lawn 3.

It was agreed that RS will write to the Council highlighting the issues in (11) & (12) above.

13. Any other business

13.1 Peter Cole

Peter had a Leighton Linlade Carnival brochure in which it is offering to donate money to local organisations using the funds that they raised in 2013. A donation request form was included within the brochure. Len agreed to fill in the form to apply for an award. Peter also suggested whether we could have a stall at the carnival.

13.2 Len

Len re-iterated the idea he has offering free tuition to attract new members and is seeking a suitable date for our members to be present to give tuition. Committee members felt that a Sunday afternoon would be the preferred time (John C suggested to avoid 10th August).

Peter also suggested that contact with Three Counties Radio might be useful as they would broadcast details of the event.

13.3 David

David passed £20 collected from Trinity Church Fellowship Group who played on our lawns on 1st June. David also asked if he could start making the arrangements to book for our annual dinner at Leighton Buzzard Golf Club as there is a need to make an early request to get a specific date.

David requested that we record in these minutes a big 'thank you' to all members involved in carrying out all of the work over the past few months to bring our lawns to their high standard as well as ensuring the smooth running of the club.

The meeting closed at 2.08pm.